LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

WEDNESDAY, 18th FEBRUARY, 1931

Vol. I—No. 21

OFFICIAL REPORT

CONTENTS.

Member Sworn.

Questions and Answers.

Message from the Council of State.

Election of Members to the Central Advisory Council for Railways.

Election of Members to the Standing Committee on Emigration.

Election of Members to the Court of the University of Delhi.

The Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill—Passed.

The Gold Thread Industry (Protection) Bill—Passed.

The Steel Industry (Protection) Bill—Passed.

Demands for Excess Grants.

Demands for Supplementary Grants.

Demands for Supplementary Grants in respect of Railways.

DELHI
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS
1931

Price Five Annas.

CORRIGENDUM.

In the Legislative Assembly Debates, Vol. I, No. 13, page 493, last line of reply to starred question No. 273, *for* "Tanganyika" *read* "Tanga".

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 18th February, 1931.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN:

Mr. Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, M.L.A. (Dacca *cum* Mymensingh: Muhammadan Rural).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CATERING ARRANGEMENTS, WAITING HALLS, ETC., AT RAILWAY STATIONS.

562. ***Lala Brij Kishore:** (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have conducted any enquiry into the catering arrangement on railway platforms, waiting halls, rest-houses and refreshment rooms?

(*b*) If the reply to part (*a*) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table the result of such enquiry?

(*c*) What principles govern the grant of such contracts?

(*d*) What arrangements have been made to ensure the supply of fresh and healthy food-stuff?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (*a*) No. But Government are aware that the subject receives constant attention from the different Railway Administrations.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) Contracts for catering are given to those who, in the opinion of the Administration, can be trusted to provide efficient service.

(*d*) Station Masters and supervising officials have instructions to see that food-stuff sold is of good quality. Special catering inspectors are appointed for this purpose on some railways.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON THE DIVISIONAL ORGANISATION OF INDIAN RAILWAYS.

563. ***Lala Brij Kishore:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) what is the total amount of expenditure for the last year on the divisional organisation of the Indian Railway system;

(*b*) what increase does this show on the old district control system; and

(*c*) if it is a fact that both the East Indian Railway and the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway have disapproved the system in view of its excessive expenditure?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (*a*) and (*b*). I am obtaining the information from the railways concerned and will furnish it to the Honourable Member as soon as it is received.

(*c*) The system is not in force on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway. As regards the East Indian Railway, the reply is in the negative.

PAYMENT OF GRANTS TO THE BENARES HINDU UNIVERSITY.

564. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra** (on behalf of Mr. A. Das): (*a*) Will Government lay on the table of the House for the perusal of the Honourable Members the correspondence which has passed between Government and the Hindu University, Benares, about the delay in the payment of recurring and non-recurring grants?

(*b*) With reference to the answer given by the Honourable Sir Fazl-i-Husain on the 27th January, in respect of a question by Babu Gaya Prasad Singh about the delay in payment of the second instalment of five lakhs to the Hindu University, will Government lay on the table of the House the correspondence on the subject and can it give any approximate time when the balance of the grant will be paid?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) It does not appear to be in the public interest to comply with the wishes of the Honourable Member.

(*b*) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the second instalment of the non-recurring grant of Rs. 15 lakhs. As stated in my reply to Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's question No. 44, on January 27th, this instalment, which amounts to six lakhs, not five as mentioned in his question, will be paid as soon as the University authorities have satisfied Government that the stipulation in regard to the reduction of indebtedness, which was laid down when the grant was sanctioned, has been complied with. A report on this point has been received from the Government of the United Provinces during the last few days and is under consideration.

CHARGES FOR STAYING AT RAILWAY RETIRING ROOMS.

565. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra** (on behalf of Mr. A. Das): (*a*) Will Government give a list of the charges for staying at the retiring rooms provided on the East Indian Railway and other Railways for the convenience of first and second class travellers?

(*b*) What has been the income from the retiring room at Cawnpore for the year ending the 31st December, 1930?

(*c*) Are Government aware that the charges at Cawnpore East Indian Railway retiring rooms are Rs. 4 and Rs. 8?

(*d*) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of reducing the charges to Rs. 2 and 4?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (*a*) I would draw the Honourable Member's attention to the current Time Tables of the different railways, wherein the information asked for is published.

(*b*) The Agent, East Indian Railway, has been asked to furnish this information and I will communicate it to the Honourable Member.

(*c*) According to information given at page 200 of the current East Indian Railway Time Table and Guide, the charge for the use of the retiring rooms at Cawnpore Station is Rs. 4/- per person per 24 hours.

(*d*) This is a matter that lies within the competence of the Agent, but the Railway Board have no reason to consider the present charge excessive.

NEED OF A SHED AT BENARES CANTONMENT RAILWAY STATION.

566. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra** (on behalf of Mr. A. Das): (*a*) Are Government aware that there is no covered shed at Benares Cantonment on platform No. 2 on the cantonment side?

(*b*) Are Government aware that a number of trains stop at that platform and a large number of passengers alight and get into train from that platform?

(*c*) Do Government propose to consider this matter and put up a shed on that platform on the cantonment side?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*). Government are not aware of the exact position but a copy of the Honourable Member's question is being sent to the Agent, East Indian Railway, for consideration.

RELEASE OF MAULANA ABDUL GHAFFAR KHAN OF THE NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

567. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad** (on behalf of Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon): (*a*) Are Government aware that one Maulana Abdul Ghaffar Khan of the North West Frontier Province, who is now in jail was the most prominent leader of the "Khudayi Khitmatgar" movement, a movement for organising the voice of the people to secure better treatment at the hands of Government, in the North West Frontier Province?

(*b*) Have Government considered the question of releasing the said Abdul Ghaffar Khan along with other leaders of the North West Frontier Province? If not, are they prepared to do so?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (*a*) Government are aware that Abdul Ghaffar Khan is now undergoing imprisonment owing to his failure to furnish security.

(*b*) I would refer the Honourable Member to the announcement made by His Excellency the Viceroy on January 25th, from which it will be seen that releases were restricted to persons who were on that date members of the Working Committee of the All-India Congress, or who had acted as such since the 1st of January, 1930. The object of Government in ordering these releases is stated in the announcement. Abdul Ghaffar Khan and others in the North West Frontier Province were not released because they did not come within this category.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi: Is not this an invidious distinction which is made between the leaders of the Congress movement and the "Khudayi Khitmatgar" movement?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: I have indicated what the distinction was and why it was made.

Sir Abdur Rahim: Is Government going to create a peaceful atmosphere in the North West Frontier Province on the same lines as in the rest of British India so that the question of constitutional advance may be properly considered by that province also?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: That will depend on how matters develop. As I pointed out in a reply to a previous question, there will be no provincial distinctions in considering that question.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi: Do Government want that Abdul Ghaffar Khan should have joined the Congress movement and should then have the privilege of being released at the present moment?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: I do not think that arises from my reply.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi: This Abdul Ghaffar Khan is a leader of the same eminence as many in the Congress movement. As he did not think it wise to join the Congress movement, he started the "Khudayi Khitmatgar" movement. Do Government by keeping him in jail want that he should have joined the Congress movement so that he might have been released at the present moment?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: No, Sir.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of releasing this gentleman in view of the fact that so many other Congress leaders of more or less the same prominence have been released, and also in view of the fact that the Muhammadans have been distinguished by extreme loyalty in the present crisis?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: I have already replied to this question.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi: Do Government realise the mistake that they are committing in making this distinction between the leaders of the two movements?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: I have explained the distinction and why it was made.

Sir Abdur Rahim: Do not Government realise that the Muhammadans not only of the North West Frontier Province but of the rest of India are very much excited over what is happening in the North West Frontier Province and that an effort should be made in order to bring about a better condition of things there as soon as possible?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: Government will be only too glad if a better condition of things is produced at an early date.

Mr. K. Ahmed: How do Government propose to bring peace?

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: Are Government aware that the situation in the North West Frontier Province is comparatively better today, and in view of that fact will they be pleased to consider the advisability of releasing the political prisoners there?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: I regret, Sir, I have nothing to add to the reply I have already given.

OFFENCES DURING THE PERIOD OF MARTIAL LAW IN THE NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

568. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad** (on behalf of Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon): (1) Will Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the date of declaration of martial law in the North West Frontier Province;

(*b*) the date of withdrawal of martial law in the North West Frontier Province;

(*c*) (i) the number of trials, convictions and acquittals under the Martial Law Act; and

(ii) the nature of the offence in each case?

(2) Will Government be pleased to state the number of:

(*a*) riots,

(*b*) dacoities,

(*c*) murders of civil and military population,

(*d*) setting fire to Government offices,

(*e*) setting fire to private properties,

(*f*) burning down of police chowkies,

(*g*) abductions, and

(*h*) other similar offences

that occurred in the North West Frontier Province:

(i) during the three months preceding the declaration of martial law; and

(ii) during the period martial law was in force?

(3) Will Government be pleased to state whether during the period of Martial Law in the North West Frontier Province, any properties of private persons were confiscated under any other Regulation or Act? If so,

(*a*) particulars of such properties, and

(*b*) the names of such persons to whom such properties belonged?

Mr. J. G. Acheson: (1) (*a*) Martial Law was declared in the Peshawar District of the North West Frontier Province on the 15th August, 1930.

(*b*) It was withdrawn as from the midnight of the 23rd/24th January, 1931.

(*c*) (i). Only 28 persons were tried, of whom 21 were convicted, 4 acquitted, 2 discharged and 1 released after warning.

(*c*) (ii). I lay on the table a statement showing the nature of the offence in each case.

As regards parts (2) and (3), the information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

A consolidated list of cases disposed of under the Martial Law in the Peshawar District.

Serial No.	Sub-Division.	Name, parentage, residence, etc., of the accused.	Offence and date of arrest.	Order of the Court and the date.	Brief facts of the case.
1	Peshawar Cantonment.	Sarmast, son of Ali Mast, Afridi of Tirah, T. T.	M. L. Ordinance No. 1, dated the 23rd September, 1930.	Acquitted on 15th October, 1930.	Had failed to get his name registered.
2	Ditto .	Akbar Khan, son of Mirza, Afridi of Tirah, T. T.	Do. .	Fined Rs. 20 on 14th October, 1930.	Ditto.
3	Peshawar City.	Hamesh Gul, son of Samad Gul, Afghan, of Urmur-Miana.	M. L. Regulation No. 13, dated the 19th September, 1930.	Fined Rs. 15 on 11th December, 1930.	Had refused to give his name to Police.
4	Sadar Sub-Division.	Halim, son of Gulab, Kumbar Khel, Afridi, Tirah, T. T.	M. L. Ordinance No. 1, dated the 1st November, 1930.	Awarded 3 months' R. I. on 24th November, 1930.	Had failed to get his name registered.
5	Ditto .	Suleiman, son of Bahram, of Mattani.	M. L. Regulation No. 15, dated the 1st November, 1930.	Fined Rs. 10 on 27th November, 1930.	Had refused to clear his field as ordered by Deputy Commissioner.
6	Ditto .	Ahmad Shah, son of Massam, of Mattani.	Do. .	Do. .	Ditto.
7	Ditto .	Ridad, son of Subedar, of Mattani.	Do. .	Do. .	Ditto.
8	Ditto .	Buner, son of Faizullah, of Mattani.	Do. .	Do.	Ditto.
9	Ditto .	Ram Chand, son of Makhan Mal, of Sarband.	M. L. Ordinance Clause No. 2, dated the 4th November, 1930.	Acquitted on 24th November, 1930.	Had thrown stones at a soldier.
10	Ditto .	Mutabar, son of Abdul Aziz, of Sarband.	Do. .	Do. .	Ditto.
11	Ditto .	Sharif, son of Fakhar Khan, of Urmur-Miana.	Do. .	Do. .	Ditto.
12	Ditto .	Halim, son of Gul Khan, Malikdinkhel, Afridi, Tirah.	M. L. Ordinance No. 1, dated the 6th November, 1930.	Awarded 2 months' R. I. on 18th November, 1930.	Had failed to get his name registered.

A consolidated list of cases disposed of under the Martial Law in the Peshawar District—contd.

Serial No.	Sub-Division.	Name, parentage, residence, etc., of the accused.	Offence and date of arrest.	Order of the Court and the date.	Brief facts of the case.
13	Peshawar Cantonment.	Adamkhel, son of Nabat, Zakha Khel, Afridi, T. T.	M. L. Ordinance No. 1, dated the 11th November, 1930.	Discharged on 21st November, 1930.	Had failed to get his name registered.
14	Ditto .	Mirangul, son of Mazdur, Zakha Khel, Afridi, T. T.	Do. .	Do. .	Ditto.
15	Ditto .	Yarmast, son of Muhammad Nur, Afridi, of Tirah.	M. L. Ordinance No. 1, dated the 1st December, 1930.	Fined Rs. 25 on 1st December, 1930.	Ditto.
16	Sadar Sub-Division.	Hameshgul, son of Zaman, of Sarband.	M. L. Regulation No. 18, dated the 17th November, 1930.	Fined Rs. 50 on 5th January, 1931.	Was found tampering with the loyalty of Government servants.
17	Ditto .	Akram, son of Mirahmad, Shah Khel, Sheikh-Muhammadi.	M. L. Ordinance No. 5, dated the 15th November, 1930.	Fined Rs. 10 on 9th December, 1930.	Was found grazing his goats in prohibited area.
18	Ditto .	Ismail, son of Sahargul, Kambar Khel, of Tirah.	M. L. Ordinance No. 1, dated the 28th November, 1930.	Fined Rs. 15 on 23rd December, 1930.	Had failed to get his name registered.
19	Ditto .	Zarif Khan, son of Muhabat Khan, of Tirah.	Do. .	Do. .	Ditto.
20	Ditto .	Kashmir, son of Tazagul, of Jamrud.	M. L. Regulation No. 12, dated the 9th December, 1930.	Fined Rs. 30 on 9th January, 1931.	Was found wandering in prohibited area.
21	Ditto .	Jumma Khan, son of Saidgul, Khugiani, of Jellalabad.	M. L. Ordinance No. 2, dated the 15th December, 1930.	Released after warning on 15th December, 1930.	Was found grazing his goats in prohibited area.

A consolidated list of cases disposed of under the Martial Law in the Peshawar District—concld.

Serial No.	Sub-Division.	Name, parentage, residence, etc., of the accused.	Offence and date of arrest.	Order of the Court and the date.	Brief facts of the case.
22	Sadar Sub-Division.	Umargul, son of Baz Muhammad, Afridi, of Sanghu.	M. L. Ordinance No. 1, dated the 15th December, 1930.	Ordered to give security u/s 562, C. P. C. on 16th December, 1930.	Had failed to get his name registered.
23	Ditto .	Bostan, son of Zulfat, of Achini-Payan.	M. L. Ordinance No. 3, dated the 12th December, 1930.	Fined Rs. 30	Was found wandering in prohibited area.
24	Ditto .	Gul-Darai, son of Zulfat, of Achini-Payan.	Do. .	Do. .	Ditto.
25	Ditto .	Lal Haider, son of Mehr Ali, Kuki Khel, Afridi, of Jamrud.	Do. .	Fined Rs. 15	Was found without a pass.
26	Ditto .	Zorai, son of Wali Muhammad, Kuki Khel, of Jamrud.	Do. .	Do. .	Ditto.
27	Peshawar City.	Abdul Shah, son of Haider Shah, Kuki Khel, Afridi.	M. L. Order No. 6, dated the 2nd January, 1931.	Fined Rs. 20	Ditto.
28	Sadar Sub-Division.	Mir Said, son of Hawas, Mian Khel, of Masho Khel.	M. L. Order No. 3, dated the 23rd December, 1930. (By the City Magistrate, Peshawar.)	Fined Rs. 50	Was found wandering in the prohibited area.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON THE FRONTIER.

569. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad** (on behalf of Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon): (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the approximate expenditure they have incurred under the following heads:

(i) Movement of troops,

(ii) Construction of roads, and

(iii) Construction of military posts,

during the Afridi attack in the Spring of last year and for defensive measures adopted by them to prevent further attacks by Afridis?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state whether as a defensive measure against Afridi attacks they have

(*a*) cut down fields and gardens, and

(*b*) demolished houses,

for military or other purposes in the vicinity of Peshawar City? If so, will Government be pleased to state:

(1) the names of owners of such properties,

(2) whether adequate compensation has been paid to them, and

(3) if no compensation has been paid, whether, and if so, when they propose to pay the same?

Mr. J. G. Acheson: (*a*) The approximate expenditure is as follows:

(i) Nearly Rs. 4 lakhs up to the end of October.

(ii) Estimated at Rs. 6 lakhs up to the end of the current financial year.

(iii) Approximately Rs. 1 lakh up to the end of the current financial year.

(*b*) The full information required by the Honourable Member is being collected. I can, however, state at once that the principle of granting compensation for damage done to private property as the result of defensive measures has throughout been accepted by Government. From the information at present available to Government it appears that, in pursuance of this policy, compensation amounting to over Rs. 7,000 has already been paid, and recommendations for the payment of some Rs. 37,000 more, which have been received from the Deputy Commissioner, Peshawar, are now under consideration. The details of these claims are in round figures as follows:

	Rs.
Land for roads	22,750
Crops cut	7,000
Trees cut or pruned	1,000
Walls demolished	850

Number of Persons imprisoned in the North West Frontier Province in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement.

570. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad** (on behalf of Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon): Will Government be pleased to state the number of persons jailed in the North West Frontier Province since the commencement of the civil disobedience movement under:

(*a*) Salt Law,

(*b*) Picketing Ordinance,

(*c*) Unlawful Instigation Ordinance, and

(*d*) Frontier Regulation Act?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (*a*) and (*c*). As far as I am aware, there have been no convictions under the Salt Act in the North West Frontier Province. There were no convictions under the Instigation Ordinance up to the end of October.

(*b*) Approximately 135 up to the end of October.

(*d*) If the Honourable Member will inform me of the Regulation to which he refers, I will obtain the figures and communicate them to him.

ALLOWANCES PAID TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

571. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad** (on behalf of Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon): Will Government be pleased to state in what percentage of appointments in the Imperial Services (Civil and Military) the total sum paid on account of allowances (including overseas pay, exchange compensation, local compensatory allowance, housing allowance, Burma allowance and all other allowances) comes to:

(*a*) twenty-five per cent.,

(*b*) more than twenty-five per cent. but less than fifty per cent.

(*c*) fifty per cent. or more of the substantive salary?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: It would require an immense amount of time and trouble to compile the information asked for by the Honourable Member. Enquiries would have to be made of every Local Government as to the actual "pay" and "allowances" drawn on a selected date by each officer of the various Civil Imperial Services serving under them; and similar figures obtained for those serving directly under the Government of India. Similar calculations would also be necessary in respect of officers of the Indian and British Armies. I may add for the Honourable Member's information that overseas pay is not an "allowance" but is part of substantive pay. The largest allowances which the Government of India pay to members of the Imperial Services are those which were fixed in 1924 for the Presidency centres and Rangoon. Those permit of payments which may in a few cases work out at a percentage somewhat in excess of 25 per cent. in the case of junior officers of these services, if they have to meet excessively high house rents.

NUMBER OF CHAPLAINS AND BISHOPS IN INDIA.

572. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad** (on behalf of Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon): (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state what is the total number of Civil Chaplains belonging to:

(i) Church of England,

(ii) all other denominations maintained out of the revenues of India?

(*b*) What is the total amount spent annually in the last three years on pay, pensions, maintenance of churches and other expenses on the ecclesiastical establishment in India?

(*c*) What were the recommendations of the Inchcape Committee with regard to reduction in the number of Civil Chaplains in India and how far have they been given effect to?

(*d*) Do Government maintain Civil Chaplains out of public revenues in those stations in which there are military or missionary churches or chapels open to Christian servants of the Government? If so, why?

(*e*) What is the total number of Bishops of the Church of England in India and how many of them are paid out of public revenues and what is the total amount paid to them?

(*f*) Are the Residency churches in the Indian States maintained by the Government of India out of Imperial revenues and, if so, what is the total number of such churches?

(*g*) What is the total number of Railway Chaplains maintained and payable out of the revenues of State Railways?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (*a*) The total number of chaplains on the Indian Ecclesiastical Establishment ministering primarily to civil congregations is:

(i) Church of England in India—40.

(ii) Church of Scotland—8.

(*b*) The total annual ecclesiastical expenditure during the last three years charged to the Civil Estimates, excluding pensionary charges, figures for which are not readily available, was approximately Rs. 38 lakhs.

(*c*) The Inchcape Committee recommended a reduction of 21 in the total number of chaplains on the Indian ecclesiastical establishment. The number actually reduced was 28.

(*d*) Only at certain of such stations, where the number of European British born civil servants is sufficiently large to justify the appointment of separate ministers for them.

(*e*) Thirteen, of whom seven are at present paid out of General Revenues. Four of these seven are, however, paid as senior chaplains and are included in the number 40 mentioned in my reply to part (*a*). The total expenditure during 1929-30 on account of their pay was about Rs. 1,66,000.

(*f*) The expression "Residency churches" is not understood. If the Honourable Member means churches at places which are the seats of Residents and Agents to the Governor General, all such churches are not maintained out of Indian revenues.

(*g*) I have called for the information and will communicate with the Honourable Member on receipt of it.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what will be the effect of the passing of the recent Church measure creating church autonomy upon the Central expenditure?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: The ultimate effect will be a substantial reduction of expenditure which will accrue as the Bishops holding the seven sees, of which the Government defray the charges, gradually vacate these sees and new incumbents are appointed. I could not, however, without previous notice, give my Honourable friend anything like a full statement.

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON THE MAINTENANCE OF MOSQUES AND TEMPLES, MAULVIS AND HINDU PRIESTS.

573. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad** (on behalf of Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon): (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the total amount spent annually in the maintenance of mosques and temples?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Maulvis and Hindu Pandits and Priests maintained and payable out of the revenues of the Government of India, together with their pay, allowances, etc.?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (*a*) No money is expended from Central revenues on the maintenance of mosques and temples beyond what is required to conserve those that have been declared to be protected monuments and are in charge of the Archæological Department. The expenditure on conservation operations cannot be stated with exactness because it is not always recorded separately for each class of building. An idea, however, of what is being done in this direction can be gathered from Appendix A to the Annual Report of the Archæological Survey for 1927-28, a copy of which will be found in the Library of the House. I may, at the same time, remind the Honourable Member that many temples and mosques in India receive indirect subsidies from the Government in the shape of remission of land revenue on lands owned by them.

(*b*) Maulvis and Hindu Pandits and Priests are employed as religious teachers in Indian Army units. The annual expenditure under this head is about Rs. 1,06,000.

CENSORSHIP OF NEWS.

574. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing** (on behalf of Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai): (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state if special officers have been employed for the purpose of censoring news before issue?

(*b*) If the answer be in the affirmative, what are the number and names of such officers and what is their salary and the purpose for which they have been so employed?

(*c*) Have any daily newspapers also employed their services?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (*a*) So far as I am aware, there has been no censorship of news before issue, except in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act and the rules thereunder.

(*b*) and (*c*). Do not arise.

DIET IN JAILS.

575. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing** (on behalf of Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai): Will Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) What is the diet that has been given in each of the jails from March to December, 1930, in India?

(*b*) Whether there is a variation of diet between jail and jail and if so, what is the reason for such variation?

(*c*) What is the incidence of sickness in various jails in respect of each ailment or disease during the above period?

(*d*) Whether there has been increase of dysentery, in any of the jails and, if so, what is the reason for such increase?

(*e*) Whether any of the prisoners have protested against the kind or quality of food supplied to them?

(*f*) In how many cases, such defects, if any, were rectified?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (*a*) to (*f*). Prison administration is, under the Devolution Rules, a provincial subject, and, I am afraid, I cannot, within the compass of a reply to a question, furnish the Honourable Member with all the information he requires. He will find this partly in the Provincial Jail Manuals and partly in the Annual Jail Administration Reports for 1930 and in the Annual Report of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India for 1930, when these Reports are published. Government cannot undertake to collect this information in advance of the publication of these Reports.

NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN JAILS AND THEIR TREATMENT.

576. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing** (on behalf of Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai): (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the number of political prisoners that were in different jails in India in "A", "B" and "C" Classes on the 31st December, 1930?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Mahatma Gandhi on his release has stated that the treatment of "C" Class prisoners in jail was inhuman?

(*c*) Is there any racial distinction in the treatment of prisoners in European and Indian Classes?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (*a*) If the Honourable Member is referring to persons convicted of offences in connection with the civil disobedience movement, I would invite his attention to the reply given to Sardar Sant Singh's unstarred question No. 12 on the 26th January, 1931.

(*b*) Government have not seen any such statement.

(*c*) No.

NUMBER OF JAINS IN THE LEGISLATURES AND THE SERVICES.

577. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing** (on behalf of Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai): Will Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) what is the total number of Jains in the Indian Legislatures at present; and

(*b*) what is the total number of Jains employed in the Indian Civil Service?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (*a*) I regret that Government have not the information the Honourable Member desires.

(*b*) One.

GRANT TO THE BENARES HINDU UNIVERSITY.

578. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing** (on behalf of Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai): (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the reason or reasons which made them suspend the grant to the Benares Hindu University?

(*b*) How long will this suspension of grant last?

(*c*) What are the conditions under which it can be again restored?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave on January 27th to Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's starred question No. 44 on this subject.

COST OF THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE.

579. *Mr. Bhuput Sing (on behalf of Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai): Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) the total actual costs incurred so far in holding the Round Table Conference in London;

(b) if the total cost has been borne by the Government of India, and

(c) if not, what is the proportion of the cost borne by the British Government?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I gave to Mr. K. C. Roy's starred question No. 132 on the 28th January, 1931.

RE-ASSEMBLING OF THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE.

580. *Mr. Bhuput Sing (on behalf of Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai): Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) if the Round Table Conference has broken up finally or is it going to assemble again for further discussion;

(b) if the answer be the latter, when is it proposed to hold it again and whether in Delhi or in London; and

(c) whether the same delegates will constitute the Conference or will there be additions and alterations in the list of those invited?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a), (b) and (c). The whole question of future procedure for the consideration of matters emerging from the discussions of the Round Table Conference is at present under the consideration of His Majesty's Government and until a decision is reached, Government are unable to make any statement on the subject.

Mr. Arthur Moore: Is the Honourable Member in a position to tell the House now when there would be a possibility of a day for a discussion of the papers concerning the Round Table Conference?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I think, Sir, 2nd March is likely to be available, and if that day will be convenient to the various parties in the House and I think Government would be prepared to give up that day.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Will the Honourable Member please state how soon we are likely to get the second part of the Blue Book which the Honourable Member said has gone to the press?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: The papers were received by the air mail following the air mail by which the first set of papers was received, and they were at once sent to Calcutta to be printed. I have not at the moment got the information when they are expected to be ready. But I will make inquiries today and I will be glad to let any Honourable Member know about it who is anxious to know.

NEW RULES FOR VALUE PAYABLE PARCELS.

581. *Mr. Bhuput Sing (on behalf of Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai): (a) Will Government be pleased to state at whose instance, under whose instructions and for what reason the new three days' rules for demurrage on V. P. articles were framed?

(b) Was it considered unnecessary to take the advice of the Legislatures before the authorities of the Postal Department repealed their rules and byelaws and framed new rules in this connection?

(c) What was the urgency of the measure which prompted them not to wait till the Budget discussions in the Legislative Assembly?

(d) Was the mercantile community or any of the Chambers of Commerce, consulted before the framing of these rules?

(e) For how long are these new rules to remain in force?

(f) What is the estimated increase in the amount of income that will be derived through this new measure?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) The new rule has been framed by Government on the suggestion of the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, to curtail the period of storage of articles in the Post Office and to prevent in future the abuse of the concession which had sprung up and which was increasing the work of the Post Office.

(b) The change was made under the powers vested in the Governor General in Council by section 7 of the Post Office Act.

(c) The matter has nothing to do with the discussion of the Budget.

(d) No. The revised procedure should generally be favourable to the mercantile community in that it enables senders of goods by the V. P. system to receive payment for them much more promptly.

(e) The new rules will remain in force until they are revised.

(f) The increase in the amount of income cannot be estimated, but the measure was not adopted primarily as a means of raising fresh revenue, but for the reasons given in the reply to part (a) of this question.

Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin: Is it not a fact that since the new rule is in force, the number of issues of V. P. articles is on the decrease while the number of "unclaimed" and "refused" V. P. articles is on the increase if compared with the old ten days' deposit system? Is it also not a fact that thousands of memorials have been submitted by traders dealing under the V. P. system, who are the ultimate victims of the amended rule? Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of having the said rule withdrawn immediately?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: Government have no information, Sir. For the rest of the question I must ask for notice.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY STATION BETWEEN COLGONG AND PIRPAINTI.

582. *Mr. Bhuput Sing (on behalf of Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai): (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether a new railway station is being proposed to be erected between Colgong and Pirpainti which are at a distance of about eighteen miles from each other? What are the estimated costs?

(*b*) Are Government aware that measurements and the selection of the site were already made about a couple of years ago by the railway authorities?

(*c*) If so, what is the delay due to?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*). Government have heard of no proposal to construct a station between Colgong and Pirpainti, which are $12\frac{5}{8}$ and not 18 miles apart.

TRIALS IN JAILS AND AT A RAILWAY STATION.

583. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing** (on behalf of Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai): Will Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) under what provision of the law trials of political prisoners are held inside jails, in spite of protests by the accused that they would not be able to defend themselves properly and engage lawyers there?

(*b*) in how many cases have trials been held in the various jails from April to December, 1930, in the different parts of India; and

(*c*) why the trial was held at the railway station in the case of Sjt. Subhas Chandra Bose, Mayor of Calcutta Corporation, at Amnura in Malda District?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (*a*) Trials are so held inside jails under the provision of section 352, Criminal Procedure Code, but this does not in any way interfere with facilities for the defence of the accused or the engaging of counsel.

(*b*) and (*c*). I have no information.

PROPERTY OF THE CONGRESS SEIZED BY THE POLICE.

584. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing** (on behalf of Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai): (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether the police authorities have been instructed to preserve or to destroy the articles worth lakhs of rupees that have been seized in different parts of India from the various branches of "the great Congress organization" recently?

(*b*) If the answer be the former, how long are these to be preserved, and will Government please state whether there is any chance of their being returned to their rightful owners? If so, when?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (*a*) and (*b*). I regret that I am unable to reply to the Honourable Member's question in the absence of any indication of the nature of the property to which he refers or the provisions of the law under which it was seized.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

Mr. President: The Secretary will now read out a Message from the Council of State.

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, the Message runs as follows:

"I am directed to state that the Council of State has, at its meeting held on the 17th February, 1931, agreed without any amendment to the Bill to supplement the Criminal Procedure (Punjab Amendment) Act, 1930, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 19th January, 1931."

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, six non-official Members from the Assembly who shall be required to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways."

I should like to say one word in explanation of the terms of this motion. In the convention for the separation of Railway finance, it was laid down that the members to serve on the Central Advisory Council should be elected by both Houses of the Legislature on the panel system. During the course of the last year or two there have been frequent expressions of the view from a number of un-official Members of this House that it would be better that in all such cases the election should take place direct and not by selection from a panel. I thought that the generally expressed wish on the other side was a sufficient justification for a small departure from the exact terms of the separation convention, and I hope that the terms of my motion will be acceptable.

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EMIGRATION.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Member for Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, 8 Members to sit on the Standing Committee on Emigration."

The observations that have been made by the Honourable the Leader of the House apply to this motion as well.

Sir Hari Singh Gour (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): May I beg to inquire of the Honourable Member whether the eight members would include officials as well?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: No.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Would you mind correcting the motion by saying "8 non-official Members"?

Mr. K. Ahmed (Rajshahi Division: Muhammadan Rural): Oh! That is implied.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I have no particular objection to it; but this is the form in which up till now the Resolution has been framed.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: I think the Honourable Member will find from the last Resolution that the word "non-official" is used.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Official members are never elected by this House for such Committees.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): In view of the Honourable the Education Member's agreement, I formally move that the word "non-official" be inserted between the words "8" and "Members".

Mr. President: Do you wish to reply?

***The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain:** I quite agree to it; there is no harm.

Mr. President: The question is that the word "non-official" be inserted between the figure "8" and the word "Members" in the Resolution.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, 8 non-official Members to sit on the Standing Committee on Emigration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: I may inform the House that for the purpose of election of Members to the Central Advisory Council for Railways and the Standing Committee on Emigration the Assembly Office will be open to receive nominations up to 12 Noon on Wednesday, the 25th February, while the elections, if necessary, will take place in this Chamber on Monday, the 2nd March, 1931. The elections will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COURT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DELHI.

Mr. President: Elected Members will now proceed to elect four persons from among their own number to be members of the Court of the University of Delhi. There are ten candidates whose names are printed on the ballot papers which will now be supplied to the Honourable Members in the order in which I call them. I should like to inform Honourable Members that Mr. Swarup has withdrawn his candidature. Therefore the remaining candidates are nine.

(The ballot was then taken.)

THE INDIAN MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, for certain purposes, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The Select Committee, Mr. President, have reported the Bill as it was introduced, without amendment, and that being so, it does not seem necessary that I should at this stage supplement what I said when I

moved my motion that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. With reference, however, to the two remarks of the Select Committee in paragraph 2 of its Report, I might perhaps take the opportunity to explain the attitude of the Government.

The first suggestion in that paragraph is that a suitable opportunity should be taken to eliminate from the Indian Merchant Shipping Act the word "native" by the substitution of the word "Indian" or some equivalent phrase. I do not think, Mr. President, that there ought to be any difficulty about that, and the natural opportunity would occur when next a repealing and amending Bill is brought before the House.

The second suggestion was that the Medical Officer of Health should always be nominated by the Governor General in Council to inspect provisions, water, medicines and appliances. That suggestion also is one which Government have no difficulty in accepting.

Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 9 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: Sir, I move that the Bill be passed.

The motion was adopted.

THE GOLD THREAD INDUSTRY (PROTECTION) BILL.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the fostering and development of the gold thread industry in British India, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

In this case also the Bill has been reported in the form in which it was introduced. In these circumstances, I do not think it is necessary for me at this stage to say anything further.

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 5 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I move that the Bill be passed.

The motion was adopted.

THE STEEL INDUSTRY (PROTECTION) BILL.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the modification of certain import duties relating to the fostering and development of the steel industry in British India, as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration."

[Sir George Rainy.]

In this case also, Mr. President, the Bill has been reported by the Select Committee in the form in which it was introduced.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: Sir, I move that the Bill be passed.

The motion was adopted.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS.

IRRIGATION, NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That an excess grant of Rs. 75,509 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1928-29 in respect of 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses), Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works'."

The motion was adopted.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That an excess grant of Rs. 3,898 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1928-29 in respect of 'Public Service Commission'."

The motion was adopted.

ADMINISTRATION OF AGENCY SUBJECTS.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That an excess grant of Rs. 107 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1928-29 in respect of 'Payments to Provincial Governments on account of Administration of Agency Subjects'."

The motion was adopted.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That an excess grant of Rs. 1,708 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1928-29 in respect of 'Geological Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That an excess grant of Rs. 59 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1928-29 in respect of 'Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments'."

The motion was adopted.

COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That an excess grant of Rs. 3,03,702 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Capital actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1928-29 in respect of 'Commuted Value of Pensions'."

The motion was adopted.

LOANS AND ADVANCES BEARING INTEREST.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That an excess grant of Rs. 23,36,479 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1928-29 in respect of 'Loans and Advances bearing Interest'."

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That an excess grant of Rs. 4,68,047 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1928-29 in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS IN RESPECT OF RAILWAYS.

COMMERCIAL LINES—WORKING EXPENSES; ADMINISTRATION.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That an excess grant of Rs. 12,04,000 be voted by the Assembly to regularize the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1928-29 in respect of 'Commercial Lines—Working Expenses: Administration'."

The motion was adopted.

COMMERCIAL LINES—WORKING EXPENSES: REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That an excess grant of Rs. 5,87,000 be voted by the Assembly to regularize the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1928-29 in respect of 'Commercial Lines—Working Expenses: Repairs and Maintenance and Operations'."

The motion was adopted.

APPROPRIATION FROM DEPRECIATION FUND.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That an excess grant of Rs. 9,83,000 be voted by the Assembly to regularize the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1928-29 in respect of 'Appropriation from Depreciation Fund'."

Sir Hari Singh Gour (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, as this is the last item in the list of Demands, the aggregate of which is over Rupees half a crore, I should like the Honourable the Finance Member to inform this House how and why this actual expenditure under the various heads was incurred in the years 1928 and 1929, and why the Budget was out by over half a crore of rupees. I can see, Sir, that such expenditure has been incurred and will have to be voted by this House, but I should like the Honourable the Finance Member to inform this House whether this was inevitable, or whether the additional expenditure was incurred for reasons which were not present to the mind of those who prepared the Budget when it was presented to this House.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, my Honourable friend has asked me to go back into rather distant past history. I think if he will read the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Accounts for 1928-29, he will find full explanations given why these excess grants were necessary, and he will also find that the Public Accounts Committee approved the voting of these excess grants. The question which my Honourable friend has put is one which would take me an extremely long time to answer in detail, as the reasons to be given in each case would be different. I think I might point out that the total amount involved in a Budget of something like Rs. 135 crores does not represent anything that might be described as an unreasonable percentage. I think I should not be treating my Honourable friend with disrespect if I suggested to him that it would not be in the interests of the House to enter into a debate on this question now, but that he should rather turn his attention to the Report of the Public Accounts Committee, which deals very fully with all these matters: and that if he has any specific points to raise in connection with any of the matters arising out of the information which he will get from the Report of the Public Accounts Committee, it would be more valuable if he made his remarks on the basis of that information. I suggest it really is putting an impossible task to me to ask me to explain in detail each one of the items referred to in this long list.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That an excess grant of Rs. 9,83,000 be voted by the Assembly to regularize the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1928-29 in respect of 'Appropriation from Depreciation Fund'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

TAXES ON INCOME.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 80,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Taxes on Income'."

Sir, in moving the first of this long list of motions, I should like to explain, following what I believe has been the usual practice in the House, that I shall not attempt, in the case of each motion, to give detailed explanations of why it is necessary to ask for these supplementary sums. Full explanations are given in the papers which have been circulated to Honourable Members, and each one of these items has passed through the very careful scrutiny of the Standing Finance Committee. But it is of course open to any Honourable Member to raise any questions which he wishes to ask as regards any particular item. Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

SALT.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 100 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Salt'."

The motion was adopted.

OPIUM.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,29,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Opium'."

The motion was adopted.

FOREST.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,16,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Forest'."

The motion was adopted.

IRRIGATION, NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,82,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works'."

The motion was adopted.

STAFF, HOUSEHOLD AND ALLOWANCES OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 22,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Staff, Household and Allowances of the Governor General'."

The motion was adopted.

FOREIGN AND POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,16,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Foreign and Political Department'."

The motion was adopted.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 88,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Home Department'."

The motion was adopted.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Public Service Commission'."

The motion was adopted.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of "Administration of Justice'."

The motion was adopted.

POLICE.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Police'."

The motion was adopted.

EDUCATION.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Education'."

The motion was adopted.

MEDICAL SERVICES.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 13,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Medical Services'."

The motion was adopted.

CENSUS.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,15,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Census'."

The motion was adopted.

EMIGRATION—EXTERNAL.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Emigration—External'."

The motion was adopted.

MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

The motion was adopted.

MINT.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,07,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Mint'."

The motion was adopted.

REFUNDS.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,60,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Refunds'."

The motion was adopted.

NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,02,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'North West Frontier Province'."

The motion was adopted.

DELHI.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,15,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Delhi'."

The motion was adopted.

ANDAMANS AND NICOBAR ISLANDS.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 35,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Andamans and Nicobar Islands'."

The motion was adopted.

RAJPUTANA.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 37,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Rajputana'."

The motion was adopted.

HYDERABAD.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Hyderabad'."

The motion was adopted.

EXPENDITURE IN ENGLAND UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,32,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Expenditure in England under the control of the High Commissioner'."

The motion was adopted.

CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SECURITY PRINTING.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Security Printing'."

The motion was adopted.

CAPITAL OUTLAY ON VIZAGAPATAM HARBOUR.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,54,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Vizagapatam Harbour'."

The motion was adopted.

COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,55,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Commuted Value of Pensions'."

The motion was adopted.

DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,07,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS IN RESPECT OF RAILWAYS.

RAILWAY BOARD.

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons (Financial Commissioner, Railways): Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 15,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of "Railway Board'."

The motion was adopted.

'APPROPRIATION FROM DEPRECIATION FUND.

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Sir, in making the next motion I wish to apologise for and correct a slip in the printed explanation of the reasons given for this Demand. In the second paragraph the phrase occurs:

"We have to make an adjustment of 59 lakhs in the current year's accounts debiting Depreciation Fund and crediting Repairs and Maintenance."

The phrase should read:

"We have to make an adjustment of 59 lakhs in the current year's accounts crediting Depreciation Fund and debiting Repairs and Maintenance."

The error came to my notice only this morning when it was too late to issue a correction. I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 50,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Appropriation from Depreciation Fund'."

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I understand that this expenditure for which the Demand is made was incurred some years ago. It was not incurred during the year 1930-31. Some mistake was made; and this expenditure which was incurred about five years ago ought to have been paid from the Depreciation Fund, but it was found convenient at that time, either intentionally or by mistake, to pay it from the General Revenues. And now on account of the financial stringency and financial losses, they want to seek an excuse to get this money from the Depreciation Fund. I would like to suggest, that, instead of paying the entire amount this year, we should pay Rs. 25,000 this year and the remaining Rs. 25,000 next year (*Some Honourable Members*: "It is lakhs and not thousands"),—I beg your pardon, I stand corrected; it should be 25 lakhs,—if our financial position improves. My intention is that the amount should be paid is two instalments; half of it should be paid this year and the other half next year.

Mr. President: Does the Honourable Member wish to move the amendment of which he has given notice?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Yes, Sir; I wish to move it, and it reads thus:

"That the Demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 50,00,000 in respect of 'Appropriation from Depreciation Fund' be reduced by Rs. 25,00,000."

Mr. President: Amendment proposed:

"That the Demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 50,00.000 in respect of 'Appropriation from Depreciation Fund' be reduced by Rs. 25,00,000."

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: May I explain, Sir, that no expenditure. . . . .

Mr. President: Please wait, Mr. Parsons, I will call upon you to reply. Let me see if there are any other Honourable Members who wish to speak on this amendment?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: May I explain, Sir, that no expenditure is involved here at all. We are merely correcting certain wrong adjustments in the accounts from the year 1924 onwards which were brought to our notice both by the Director of Railway Audit, by the Accounts Officers under

me, and in the case of the largest item, by the Public Accounts Committee, who pressed that the adjustment should be carried out as quickly as possible. Following the advice which they gave us, we have made these adjustments in the current year's accounts, and it is not in any way to show better results in this year's working that these adjustments have been made. I regret, Sir, I am unable to accept the Honourable Member's proposal for I cannot agree that a rectification of an error in the accounts when found to be necessary should be postponed to a future date. I must therefore oppose the motion.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the Demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 50,00,000 respect of 'Appropriation from Depreciation Fund' be reduced by Rs. 25,00,000."

The motion **was negatived.**

Mr. President: I will now put the original motion. The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 50,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Appropriation from Depreciation Fund'."

The motion was adopted.

STRATEGIC LINES—WORKING EXPENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,95,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1931, in respect of 'Strategic Lines—Working Expenses and Miscellaneous'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The House stands adjourned and will meet tomorrow at Eleven of the Clock if the *Id* does not fall tomorrow. If *Id* falls tomorrow, the House will meet the day after, Friday morning, at Eleven of the Clock. In any case, Members will be circularised.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: How are we to know about it?

Mr. President: There will be a circular sent round. I said that.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 19th February, 1931.